"Regarding their appetites, O'Connor (pp. 54-55) says: 'They have very great appetites; saw a child of eight months old, then at the breast, eat a whole kangaroo rat, and then attack a crawfish.' In the Van Diemen's Land Almanac for 1834 (p. 78) it is stated they devour their food 'with greediness.' Dixon (p. 22) speaks of their food being 'devoured voraciously,' and says, 'As their subsistence was precarious, their gluttony was great;' and Widowson (p. 190) writes of them: 'They eat voraciously, and are very little removed from the brute creation as to choice of food, entrails, etc., sharing the same chance as the choicest parts.' But Davis, to a certain extent, explains their voracity as follows:-- 'They were often a long time without food, and then ate it in large quantities. When they are short of food, they tighten a string of kangaroo sinews, which they wear round their middle. The enormous quantity of food which they are capable of eating, when they have an opportunity, would scarcely be credited. A native woman, at the settlement at Flinders Island, was one day watched by one of the officers, and seen to eat between fifty and sixty eggs of the "sooty petrel" (procellaria, sp.), besides a double allowance of bread: these eggs exceed those of a duck in size' (p. 414). At one of the meetings of the Royal Society of Tasmania the following remarks bearing on the aboriginals' power of gorging were reported:--'Mr. Ogilby stated it to be no uncommon circumstance for an individual [of the aborigines], at a single meal, to eat 12 lbs. of meat,

and wash it down with a gallon of train oil. These were, however, only occasional gorges. Mr. Breton observed that Mr. Ogilby must surely have meant his remarks to apply to the aborigines of some other country, as those of Tasmania never had the opportunity of obtaining train oil' (Tasm. Journ. III. p. 238)."